

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION  
CASE NO. 07-027**

**IN RE: STEPHEN RAY ISAACS  
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF KRS CHAPTER 11A**

**INITIATING ORDER  
Initiation of Administrative Proceeding  
And Formal Complaint**

The Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the "Commission"), upon its own motion, initiated a preliminary investigation of Stephen Ray Isaacs (the "Respondent"), pursuant to KRS 11A.020(1), on August 24, 2007.

At all relevant times the Respondent was a "public servant" as defined in KRS 11A.010(9), and thus subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Commission initiated this preliminary investigation to determine whether there was probable cause to believe the Respondent violated provisions of KRS Chapter 11A (also referred to herein as the "Ethics Code").

The Commission focused upon the Respondent's possible use of his official position to give himself a financial gain and attempt to give himself an advantage by misappropriating fine payments that should have been deposited with his former employer, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The Commission notified the Respondent of the preliminary investigation by letter dated August 31, 2007. During the course of the investigation, the Commission found that the Respondent pled guilty to charges of mail fraud and was convicted in United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky on December 21, 2007. Thus, probable cause exists to believe that a violation of KRS Chapter 11A has occurred. The

Commission voted on May 9, 2008, to initiate an administrative proceeding, pursuant to KRS 11A.080(4)(B) and KRS Chapter 13B, to determine whether the Respondent violated the Ethics Code as set forth in the Allegation of Violation, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this initiating Order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

1. The Respondent shall file his answer to this Initiating Order within twenty (20) days from the date of service, verifying the truth and accuracy of any answer submitted.
2. The Respondent shall appear at a hearing to be scheduled by subsequent order and be prepared to defend against the Commission's allegations that he committed the Ethics Code violations set forth in the Allegation of Violations, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this Initiating Order.
3. All material submitted to the Commission shall be addressed to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission, The Vest-Lindsey House, 401 Wapping Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. The Commission is represented by Becky Goodman, Interim Counsel, who may be contacted through the Commission's office at (502) 564-7954.
4. The Respondent has the right to legal counsel during this proceeding. If the Respondent retains legal counsel, that person shall file an appearance with the Commission, and thereafter all correspondence from the Commission to the Respondent shall be mailed or delivered to the Respondent's attorney.
5. The Respondent has the right to examine upon request, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, a list of witnesses the Commission expects to call at the

hearing, any evidence which will be used at the hearing and any exculpatory information in the Commission's possession.

6. The Respondent has the right to subpoena witnesses on his own behalf. If the Respondent subpoenas witnesses, he shall pay for all costs associated with the subpoenas' issuance, including any applicable witness fees.

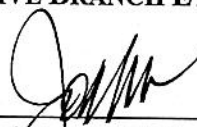
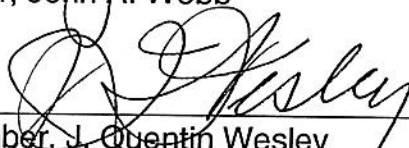
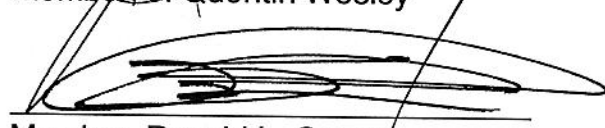
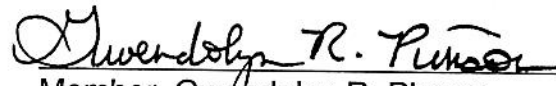
7. If the Respondent fails to attend or participate as required at any stage of the administrative hearing process without good cause shown, he may be held in default pursuant to KRS 13B.050(3)(h).

8. The Respondent has a right to appeal any final Commission order to the Franklin Circuit Court within thirty (30) days of service.

9. This proceeding is subject to KRS Chapter 11A, the Commission's regulations, the provisions of KRS Chapter 13B, and any Order issued by the Commission or its hearing officer issued during this administrative proceeding.

So ordered this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:**

  
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Chair, John A. Webb  
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Member, J. Quentin Wesley  
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Member, Ronald L. Green  
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Member, Gwendolyn R. Pinson

**APPENDIX A  
CASE NO  
INITIATING ORDER**

**ALLEGATION OF VIOLATION**

The Respondent, Stephen Ray Isaacs, was at all times relevant to this investigation an employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, serving as a conservation officer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The Respondent was subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission at all relevant times. KRS 11A.010(9)(h).

During the course of its preliminary investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that Isaacs committed the following violation:

**COUNT I**

Isaacs violated KRS 11A.020(1)(c) and (d) by using his official position to give himself a financial gain and an advantage in derogation of the public at large by misappropriating fine payments collected from convicted poachers that should have been deposited with his former employer, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

KRS 11A.020(1)(c) and (d) provide:

(1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:

...

(c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family; or

(d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

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